



**United Retail Federation**

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## **Small Business Turns Their Back on Rudd Government as Weak ABS Retail Figures Released**

### **Driscoll – “Retailers fed up with irresponsible Rudd Government spending”**

*Thursday, 6 May, 2010*

The *United Retail Federation*, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector has responded to the latest ABS Retail Trade Figures, a Main Economic Indicator (MEI), showing that sales were still weak, saying that the industry was “overall still in negative territory” and retailers were suffering with many beginning to slash prices and cut staff to survive.

**Scott Driscoll**, National President of the *United Retail Federation*, said latest Retail Trade figures were “weak” and of the last four months the industry still remained in negative territory. The figures are on the back of consecutive interest rate rises which have been triggered by out of control spending from the Commonwealth Government.

Mr Driscoll said that the ongoing overall decline in retail trends is “another nail in the coffin”, adding that small businesses and retailers around the country were turning their backs on the Rudd Government.

“Today’s figures are disappointingly weak. Of the last four months retail figures we have a net negative of 0.8% which is alongside consecutive interest rate rises and a government out of control with wasting money. Blind Freddie can see that this is an unsustainable environment for small business and retail,” Mr Driscoll said.

“I know that the Prime Minister and the Treasurer like to proclaim they ‘saved’ the country from a financial calamity but I’d just say to them, take a trip to Main Street, Australia with me and get a reality check.

“When a business is forced to slash prices and cut staff that is not the sign of a healthy business sector that is the sign of someone treading water and barely staying afloat.

“It is the entrepreneurial small business and retail sector that are the real heroes of our economy, not Wayne Swan or Kevin Rudd.

“Small business and retailers have been treated disgracefully by the Rudd Government who has left them high and dry with their bumbling government spending programs that put more and more pressure on interest rates and small business everyday.”

**For further comment contact Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.**